

REMARKS

Claims 20-22, 31, 35-42, 44, 45 and 50-79 were pending in the application. Claims 77 and 78 are now cancelled without prejudice to Applicant's right to prosecute their subject matter in the present application and in related applications. Claims 50, 51 and 70 have been amended without any intent of disclaiming equivalents thereof. Accordingly, upon entry of this paper, claims 20-22, 31, 35-42, 44, 45, 50-76 and 79 are pending and presented for consideration.

The Examiner indicated that claims 20-22, 31, 35-42, 44-45, 52-69, 71-76 and 79 are allowed.

Claim amendments

Applicant has amended claims 77 and 78 to delete two embodiments recited in the Markush group. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to the claims do not introduce new matter.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claims 50, 51 and 70 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that the terms "nitrocellulose" and "nylon" recited in claims 50, 51 and 70 are broader than originally disclosed because, according to the Examiner, "nitrocellulose" and "nylon" are limited to being in "web" form as disclosed at page 13, line 31. Applicant traverses the Examiner's rejection on the basis that all materials and structures disclosed in the specification at page 13 are exemplary embodiments of the invention. They are not intended and should not be interpreted to limit the scope of the invention in any way. However, in order to advance prosecution of the present application, Applicant has amended claims 50, 51 and 70 to delete the recitation of "nitrocellulose" and "nylon." Applicant preserves the right to pursue the deleted subject matter in a continuation application. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of claims 50, 51 and 70 be withdrawn.

Claim Objections Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c)

The Examiner objects to claims 77 and 78 as being a substantial duplication of claims 60 and 21, respectively. Without acquiescing to the objection, and solely to advance prosecution, Applicant has cancelled claims 77 and 78; the objection with respect to claims 77 and 78 is therefore moot.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that all objection and rejection have been overcome and claims 20-22, 31, 35-42, 44, 45, 50-76 and 79 are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned agent to discuss any remaining issues. Early and favorable actions are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Fangli Chen, Ph.D.

Agent for Applicant

Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Nicholson Graham LLP

75 State Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02109

Date: September 27, 2005
Reg. No. 51,551

Tel. No.: (617) 261-3198
Fax No.: (617) 261-3175
Customer Number: 022832